Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~universal interface of claim 25, wherein the~~ interface control module integrates and synchronizes (i) a database of a personal information manager, (ii) a database of a personal digital assistant, and (iii) a database residing in the universal interface, the universal interface coupled to a computer on which the personal information database resides. The computer can include a first input terminal for receiving data from the personal digital assistant; a second input terminal for receiving data from the universal interface; a sensor for detecting a synchronization event, wherein the event is triggered by a user requesting synchronization of the database of the personal digital assistant with the database of a personal information manager; an electronic mail system coupled to the Internet; control logic coupled to receive detection information from the sensor and to transmit data, via the electronic mail system, to the interface control module, wherein the control logic updates the data in each of the databases to reflect the most recent data entered into any one database. The synchronization information is sent to the universal interface in its entirety, in compressed form, or in incremental form. The data sent from the information system to the universal interface is sent over the Internet. The data sent over the Internet is encrypted. The information system can be a dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) driven voice mail system, a voice driven voice mail system, an electronic mail system, a web site, and a personal information manager. The system can determine whether the voice commands are being received from a user telephone; the information system to be accessed; whether the voice commands, after being converted to commands, are recognizable to the information system; whether the converted commands have been forwarded to the information system; whether data has been received from the information system; whether data from the information system is speech or text; the state of the speech-to-text routing switch; and the state of the output switch. The interface control module includes one or more models containing commands recognizable by the information system; control logic for accessing the model that corresponds with the information system to be accessed, converting control commands to

commands recognizable by the information system, and forwarding the converted commands to the information system. The universal interface includes means coupled to the input converter for signaling that the user telephone has received unintelligible words; means for restarting communication to the text-to-speech converter at a point a specified number of words back from the point at which the communication ceased; means for forwarding the first specified number of words by spelling the words out; and means for continuing forwarding the data after the specific number of words. The universal interface can include means for detecting a first language in which the commands from the user telephone are received; means for detecting a second language associated with the data received from the information system; and means for converting the data from the information system into the first language. The universal interface further includes means for detecting more than one language within a single fragment of data.